REGINA metro®

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Prairies folk-pop heads south

Singer-pianist Jeffery Straker is representing Canada at the Vina Del Mar festival in Chile PAGE 2

It's aliiiiive again

Frankenstein: The College Years? It happened. I, Frankenstein starring Aaron Eckhart is just the latest silver-screen incarnation of the prefab man PAGE 9

FORDIAN SLIP

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RESCUE RECOUNTED

RCMP Saskatchewan's Cpl. Doug Green appears on the Katie television talk show in New York City with host Katie Couric on Tuesday. Green was on the ABC network program to explain how he had used one of the Mounties' unmanned aerial drones to locate and rescue an injured man who had wandered from the scene of a highway crash in Saskatchewan last spring. Story, page 3. COURTESY ABC

Former teacher found not guilty of sex assault

Trial saw heated exchanges involving families. Consistent testimony a factor in acquitting Regina man accused by student

A former high school teacher who was accused of sexually assaulting and exploiting a student has been found not guilty.

The acquittal follows a trial last December for Corey Matthews of Regina.

Court of Queen's Bench Justice Catherine Dawson ruled that the complainant's testimony was inconsistent with his previous statements, while Matthews' testimony remained consistent.

The alleged victim, who is now 22, had told the trial that he was in his mid-teens when Matthews assaulted him on four different occasions.

A number of people were called to testify, including Matthews, but there was no physical evidence or eye witnesses.

There were a number of heated exchanges during the trial involving families from both sides. At one point security guards had to break up a shouting match that erupted in the hallway outside the courtroom.

Matthews said he may have been acquitted, but he won't be able to get his life back after having his name connected to the charges for such a long time.

"I didn't win anything today. I just didn't lose as much. It's almost been four years to the day," he said after the verdict.

He said he and defence lawyer Barry Nychuk were always confident in the outcome in the case, but the proceedings have taken their toll.

Matthews said he doesn't know what he will do next. He hasn't been focusing on his future.

"We can talk all we want about assumed innocence, but there's a stain that is put on you," he said.

"Let's face it: There's no rebuilding my career. There's no rebuilding my previous life."

THE CANADIAN PRESS, CJME

Trial's toll

"I didn't win anything today. I just didn't lose as much." Former high school teacher Corey Matthews

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NEWS 1

Saskatchewanian hopes to strike a chord in Chile

Jeffery Straker.
Vina Del Mar festival promises massive exposure to live and TV audiences, and a potential $75K payout

ROSS ROMANIUK
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He's performed across Canada, in the U.S. and in Africa, but Saskatchewan musician Jeffery Straker is about to take his folk-pop sound to a whole new world.

The Regina-based singer and pianist has been named as a representative for Canada at the upcoming Vina Del Mar International Song Festival in Chile, perhaps the highest-profile music event in all the Spanish-speaking countries.

"It's the largest festival in the Latin world, actually," Straker told Metro on Tuesday from Toronto, where he's writing songs for an album he plans to record later this year.

"You perform to 20,000 people, live," he added of the six-day event in late February.

"Bigger is the TV audience. It's over 100 million people, because it's broadcast by satellite to all of the Latin world. The reach is huge. So there is really good potential."

Straker, who has released four albums in the past eight years, will compete in a pop category on behalf of Canada against standout musicians from several other countries. And he'll do so after flying to Chile without his regular backing musicians to play with an orchestra, whose members he's never met.

"It is a lot of work. I'll rehearse for a week and use their orchestra. And it's a big TV production so there's a team of dancers who choreograph to what you do," he explained.

"I'll perform three nights in a row. And if the judges pick me for the final, I'll perform once more."

Though the grand prize includes a payout equivalent to about $75,000 US, Straker stresses that the largest reward is the experience and massive audience he'll reach live and through television.

"I'm just grateful. It's a very risk-free opportunity. They sent me a plane ticket, and I get a great hotel room while I'm down in Chile on the coast for two weeks," he said.

"I've never even been to Chile, so it will be pretty cool."

Jeffery Straker, pictured performing with the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra last October at TCU Place, is looking forward to the exposure he'll get at the Vina Del Mar festival in Chile. TRUDY JANSSENS/PHOTOGRAPHY ONE TO ONE

More flu vaccine means more clinics

More Saskatchewanians will have access to the influenza vaccine this week after the province acquired an additional 107,000 FluMist nasal-spray doses.

Dr. Denise Werker, provincial deputy chief medical health officer, said on Tuesday that the new shipment has prompted the government to expand the availability of the vaccine to all people from the ages of two to 59.

"We encourage Saskatchewan people to be vaccinated to protect themselves from illness due to influenza," Werker told media at Saskatchewan Health offices in Regina.

"Our goal is to vaccinate as many people as possible, as quickly as possible."

Entering the second-last week of January, Werker said early indications are that this flu season might have hit its peak. She maintained, though, that she's "not convinced" by the findings.

Dr. Denise Werker, deputy chief medical health officer for Saskatchewan, has announced that a shipment of more than 100,000 nasal-spray doses will allow the province to expand the availability of the flu vaccine to all people from the ages of two to 59. MARCO VIGLIOTTI/METRO

She noted that the province's remaining supply of injectable vaccine is being reserved for infants, pregnant women, immunity-compromised individuals and those over the age of 60.

The Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region (RQHR) also announced on Tuesday that it will hold three additional appointment-only vaccination clinics from Thursday to Saturday for people eligible for nasal-spray doses and for injectable doses.

The clinics will open at 1 p.m. on Thursday and at 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. on Friday and Saturday, respectively.

Appointments can be made by calling 306-766-7878 from Wednesday to Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

The number of doses the RQHR will receive from the provincial government will be confirmed at a later date.

The Saskatoon Health Region (SHR), meanwhile, has received 15,000 more FluMist doses and will hold four additional vaccination clinics in the next two weeks.

Two of those clinics will be held in Saskatoon, with one running on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Prairieland Park Hall A and another on Tuesday at the Cosmo Civic Centre from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"(On Tuesday), we're going to be ... at Cosmo Civic Centre to try and do those individuals that couldn't come in on Saturday," said Karen Grauer, the SHR's manager of disease control for public population and public health.

The other SHR clinics will be held in Humboldt and Watrous.

Unlike the injectable doses, the nasal-spray vaccine is not recommended for children under the age of two, pregnant women and those who are immunity-compromised.

MARCO VIGLIOTTI/METRO, WITH FILES FROM JACOB MORGAN

Rescue. Sask. Mountie explains drone search on Katie Couric's talk show

Saskatchewan Mounties hit TV's big-time on Tuesday, as an officer appeared on Katie Couric's talk show in New York City to explain an RCMP rescue of an injured man using an unmanned flying drone.

"It's kind of overwhelming ... but everybody in the show is very welcoming," Cpl. Doug Green told media in Saskatchewan by phone from New York.

Green, a forensic collision reconstructionist, had used the remote-controlled aircraft after a vehicle rollover on a highway near Saskatoon last spring.

Officers hadn't found the driver following an hour of searching up to 1,000 metres around the crash scene, even with night-vision provided by a STARS air ambulance. The driver then called 911 from his cellphone, allowing RCMP to track his location.

The driver still couldn't be found, however, leading Green to launch the Dragan Flyer X4-ES drone equipped with an infrared camera.

Project launched in 2010

RCMP launched the project in Saskatchewan in 2010, and have six drones spread among several detachments.

Heat indicators showed up on a screen, and within minutes Green directed rescuers to the driver, unresponsive and lying on the ground.

"It was such a successful search-and-rescue mission," said Green, who detailed the rescue to Couric on the set of her ABC network show, Katie.

The U.S. television experience, Green said, has been exciting. And he added that his appearance on the program shows that Saskatchewan Mounties are pioneers in their work.

"We were the ones that piloted the project," he said of the use of the drones, "and a lot of our expertise determined what other provinces use."

SARAH TAGUIAM/METRO

Mounties display recruits' physical requirements

Force to be reckoned with. Push your luck at RCMP fitness test demo

SARAH TAGUIAM
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The Mounties are opening their doors to offer a glimpse of the physical requirements for joining the force.

An RCMP fitness instructor will walk participants through an obstacle course that prospective officers go through during a physical ability requirement evaluation (PARE).

"It's something unknown," Cpl. Natasha Szpakowski, who works in the RCMP's Saskatchewan recruitment, told Metro on Tuesday of the test.

"It's good for people to see how high the vault they need to jump over is, or what lifting 75 pounds feels like."

RCMP in Regina used to hold mock PARE runs about five years ago. Szpakowski, who is new to the Depot Division training unit, pushed to bring them back.

RCMP Cpl. Natasha Szpakowski demonstrates on Tuesday how to push and pull a 32-kilogram weight, one of the tasks applicants must complete to pass the Mounties' physical examination. SARAH TAGUIAM/METRO

One of her reasons is that some applicants are intimidated when reading about the test, or when watching videos online about it.

"I find women in particular are quite concerned about their physical fitness and whether or not they're strong enough," Szpakowski said.

The test, which is the same for men and women, involves a six-lap obstacle course and a push-and-pull stage that must be completed in four minutes and 45 seconds.

The exercises include jumping over knee-high obstacles, vaulting over a one-metre barrier and pushing and pulling a 32-kilogram weight in six 180-degree arcs.

Szpakowski hopes to conduct the physical show-and-tell in Saskatchewan every three months.

The initial PARE demonstration will be held at the RCMP's Depot Division gymnasium on Wednesday from 5 to 7 p.m. Saskatchewan residents are welcome to participate after pre-registering online at rcmp-grc.gc.ca/recruiting-recrutement/rec-eve/sk-eng.htm#pare2.

"I never had the opportunity to do this when I was applying," Szpakowski said, "and I think a program like this would certainly help future applicants."

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‘The unravelling of Ford’: New vid shows mayor off the wagon

Broken promise. The mayor pledged to clean up his act, but this vid shows he has not done that, says a council member

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford ended weeks of adamant vows that he had given up alcohol by admitting Tuesday that he was drinking the previous night, after a video emerged of him in a rambling, profane rant.

The poorly framed video of the largely incoherent Ford using Jamaican swear words was posted to YouTube anonymously, and appears to have been filmed at a restaurant called Steak Queen in the city’s north west.

Ford admitted he had been drinking, but said it was on his “own time.”

“I was with some friends and what I do in my personal life with my personal friends, that’s up to me,” Ford told reporters outside his city hall office. “It really has nothing to do with you guys.”

The mayor denied that he was on drugs the previous night but wouldn’t say how he got home from the restaurant in that state.

In the video Ford uses profanity, appears to imitate a Jamaican accent and uses the Jamaican swear word bumbaclot, references Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair and counter-surveillance, though full sentences cannot be made out from the audio.

Ford said he did not think the language he used was offensive or discriminatory.

“It’s how I speak with some of my friends,” he said.

Coun. Michael Thompson, the city’s only black councillor, said the mayor’s interpretation of “supposedly being Jamaican” was offensive.

He called it another unfortunate situation in the “unravelling of Rob Ford,” saying many fellow councillors were skeptical of Ford’s claims of sobriety.

A user of the social media site Instagram posted a photo around midnight of the mayor posing with two men and identified the location as Steak Queen.

Coun. Joe Mihevic said it appeared from the video that Ford was “off the wagon.”

“It was his commitment that he would clean up his act,” Mihevic said. “What this shows is that he has not done that.” THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

“We’ve been fairly silent in just waiting for the next thing to occur ... I think we all had sort of concluded it was only a matter of time.”

Coun. Michael Thompson about Ford

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford leaves his city hall office on Tuesday. A new video of what appears to be an intoxicated Mayor Ford has surfaced. ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Throngs delighted by Harper’s Israeli stance

Prime Minister Stephen Harper stands in front of the Western Wall, the holiest site where Jews can pray in Jerusalem’s old city, Tuesday. Harper is on an official visit to the region. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Throngs of Israelis literally reached out to touch Stephen Harper on Tuesday as he basked in a hero’s welcome at the sacred Western Wall, shortly after he and his Israeli counterpart insisted their countries do, indeed, have differences of opinion.

The prime minister’s jampacked second full day in Israel included a morning chat with President Shimon Peres, as well as a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and six Canadian cabinet ministers, including John Baird and Jason Kenney.

Netanyahu and his wife then accompanied Harper and his wife Laureen to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Museum for a harrowing look back at the horrors perpetrated on the Jews by Nazi Germany.

“They are remembered always, in our hearts, in our prayers and most importantly in our resolve,” Harper wrote in the museum guest book. “Never again.”

The loquacious Israeli leader explained much of what the Harpers saw at the museum, an elegant building designed by Canadian architect Moshe Safdie that’s situated on a sunny Israeli hilltop speckled with majestic cedars.

Netanyahu spoke at length at every stop of the tour, explaining the exhibits to the Harpers. At the end of the visit, they stopped in the Hall of Names, where the names of Holocaust victims are permanently preserved.

Just after sunset, the prime minister was greeted by hundreds of onlookers who cheered and reached out their hands to touch him as he made his way from his vehicle to the wall. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Historic address

Prime Minister Stephen Harper’s official tours don’t often generate international headlines, but Monday’s historic address to Israel’s parliament was an exception.

- Israeli press was most positive about Harper’s speech, in which he accused those who blame the country for problems in the Middle East of being anti-Semitic.

Phone invasion

Crown says older phones don’t need search warrants

Recent changes in the law requiring police to obtain search warrants before examining the contents of smartphones shouldn’t apply to older, less-advanced cellphones, a Crown lawyer told British Columbia’s highest court Tuesday. The B.C. Court of Appeal is examining whether it was legal for the RCMP to search two BlackBerry phones seized from a suspect following a 2006 kidnapping in Richmond, near Vancouver. Investigators didn’t get a warrant before sending the phones, which were protected by passwords, to a technical lab in Ottawa. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The wire

Quebec union tried to thwart corruption inquiry

Quebec’s largest labour federation was ready to ask Parti Quebecois Leader Pauline Marois for help in ensuring no corruption inquiry ever took place, according to a wiretap conversation heard Tuesday. The 2009 exchange, played at the Charbonneau Commission, is between two senior union bosses — then-federation president Michel Arsenault and Jean Lavallée, former president of the federation’s construction wing. The union has been under the microscope as the corruption inquiry looks at how organized crime infiltrated it through its construction wing. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Insert disaster here

Minister ready with prepackaged federal statements

If there’s a major cyber-attack on Canada, Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney will not be giving the public “specific details” of the incident, newly released briefing notes indicate. However, the minister won’t be at a complete loss for words if he follows the carefully crafted script he’s been provided for just such a terrible occasion. “Cyber-attacks are a global phenomenon,” Blaney is advised to tell Canadians. In fact, Blaney will be ready to respond to other kinds of catastrophes, including a major natural or man-made disaster in Canada, as well as terrorism. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chinese man executed, kept sex slaves

Luoyang city. The man, 36, kept his six female victims in a dungeon; two were killed by fellow victims

China executed a man on Tuesday who kept six women in a dungeon as sex slaves for periods of up to 21 months, during which he coerced three of them to kill two of their fellow captives, a court official said.

Li Hao, 36, who was executed, had dug a dungeon underneath a basement he bought in August 2009 and tricked women who worked at hair salons, karaoke bars and a massage parlour into going there with him, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

Li repeatedly raped the women, who were held there between two and 21 months, it said.

Police said he wanted to make money by forcing the women into prostitution and to appear in obscene webcasts.

His dungeon in Luoyang city in central Henan province was discovered after one of the women escaped and went to police.

The two women who died were killed by three of the others on Li's instructions, and they were also found guilty of murder; according to Xinhua, they were shown leniency. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Married with a child; dungeon away from his home

Xinhua News Agency said Li Hao was convicted of murder, rape, illegal detention, organized prostitution and manufacturing pornography for profit. He was sentenced to death and fined $1,640.

- Li forced the women to appear in sex webcasts.
- When Li was arrested in September 2011, he was married with an eight-month-old son.

A Jersey wind chill: –40 C!

A woman tries to control her skirt and umbrella as a gusty wind blows onto her during a winter storm, Tuesday, in Jersey City, N.J. A cold spell has gripped the region, with bitterly cold air and wind chills as low as -40 C in the forecast. JULIO CORTEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pennsylvania

American cops really 'liked' this dude's Facebook post

Police in one Pennsylvania town really "liked" this Facebook post.

The Wilkes-Barre Times Leader reports officers arrested 35-year-old Anthony Lescowitch less than two hours after he shared a wanted photo of himself and taunted police for not being able to find him.

Police in Freeland say Lescowitch shared the wanted bulletin minutes after they posted it on the department Facebook page on Monday night.

He was being sought by police on assault charges.

An officer pretending to be an attractive woman then messaged Lescowitch originally suggesting a drink, which he declined.

When the officer suggested a smoke instead, he agreed to meet the "woman" who would soon arrest him.

Police say Lescowitch agreed to meet with the officer for a cigarette, and was arrested at the agreed-upon location.

Lescowitch remained in jail Tuesday.

Court records don't list a defence attorney for him, at least not as of yet. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Tickets. Sochi scrambling to fill seats amid expense, terrorism concerns

What if they held an Olympics and nobody came?

The situation isn't that bleak for the Sochi Games. Yet, with less than three weeks to go until the opening ceremony, hundreds of thousands of tickets remain unsold, raising the prospect of empty seats and a lack of atmosphere at Russia's first Winter Olympics.

There are signs that many foreign fans are staying away, turned off by terrorist threats, expensive flights and hotels, long travel distances, a shortage of tourist attractions in the area and the hassle of obtaining visas and spectator passes.

"Some people are scared it costs too much and other people are scared because of security," senior International Olympic Committee member Gerhard Heiberg of Norway said. "From my country, I know that several people and companies are not going for these two reasons. Of course, there will be Norwegians there, but not as many as we are used to."

Sochi organizers announced last week that 70 per cent of tickets have been sold for the games, which run from Feb. 7-23 and represent a symbol of pride and prestige for Russia and President Vladimir Putin.

So what about the remaining 30 per cent?

"We are keeping a special quota for those who come for the games, so that they can indeed buy tickets for the competitions," organizing committee chief Dmitry Chernyshenko said.

Chernyshenko said about 213,000 spectators are expected at the games, with about 75 per cent likely to be Russians.

"Tickets are being snapped up fast, with the most popular events being hockey, biathlon, figure skating, freestyle and snowboard," the organizing committee said in a statement. "With 70 per cent of tickets already sold and another ticketing office opening shortly, we are expecting strong last-minute ticket sales and do not envisage having empty seats."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A person walks through the Main Press Center on Jan. 8 in Sochi.
MICHAEL HEIMAN/GETTY IMAGES

Young man... Olympic band may play gay anthem as a 'signal' of solidarity

The Dutch brass band that always performs at Olympic speed skating ovals is considering playing a popular gay song, Village People's YMCA, at the Sochi Winter Olympics to show its support for gay rights.

It remains to be seen how Russian and Olympic authorities would react should the Kleintje Pils band play a song widely considered to be a gay anthem. A ban on information about "non-traditional sexual relations" signed into law by Russian President Vladimir Putin has provoked widespread international outrage from critics who believe it discriminates against gays.

Bandleader Ruud Bakker said on Tuesday that Kleintje Pils could mix YMCA in its singalong repertoire as "a signal." But he added that the band didn't want to antagonize organizers or turn its performances into a "political game."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It takes a village

"We will see if we can get one or two songs into the selection, knowing that in the Netherlands it will be seen as a signal we are thinking of them (gays)."

Kleintje Pils bandleader Ruud Bakker

Security personnel walk in the Olympic Park in the Coastal Cluster in Sochi, Russia, on Jan. 9. The region will host the 2014 Winter Olympics, which start on Feb. 6. Security officials are searching for three potential suicide bombers, one of whom is believed to be in Sochi. MICHAEL HEIMAN/GETTY IMAGES

Russian forces hunting potential bombers

Olympic security. Officials say three female 'black widows' are on the loose, including one at large in Sochi

Russian security officials are hunting down three potential female suicide bombers, one of whom is believed to be in Sochi, where the Winter Olympics will begin next month.

Police leaflets seen by an Associated Press reporter at a central Sochi hotel on Tuesday contain warnings about the three potential bombers.

A U.S. congressman who was in Sochi on Tuesday to assess the situation said he was impressed by the work of Russian security forces, but troubled that potential suicide bombers had gotten into the city, despite all of the extraordinary security measures.

"We know some of them got through the perimeter," said Rep. Michael McCaul, chairman of the U.S. House Homeland Security Committee. "She's for real. What we don't know is how many more black widows are out there."

Russian authorities have blamed the so-called "black widows" of slain insurgents for previous attacks in the country.

McCaul, a Republican from Texas, said he had numerous meetings with officials in Moscow and Sochi, and was briefed by the joint operation centre in Sochi, which is responsible for overall security in the area.

The congressman expressed concern that terrorists could have gotten into Sochi before security was tightened.

"How many potential cells could be in Sochi and the Olympic village?" he said. "But after 'the ring of steel' was implemented, we have this one person who seems to have been able to penetrate it. It does demonstrate vulnerability."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"How many potential cells could be in Sochi and the Olympic village?"

U.S. Congressman Rep. Michael McCaul, who, despite being impressed by the work of Russian security forces, said he was troubled that potential suicide bombers had gotten into Sochi.

A photo of a police leaflet seen in a Sochi hotel on Tuesday shows Ruzanna Ibragimova and states that she is at large in the city.
NATALYA VASILYEVA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The 'black widows'

A police letter said that one of the suicide bombers, Ruzanna Ibragimova, a 22-year-old widow of an Islamic militant, was at large in Sochi.

- Police material distributed to the hotel staff included pictures of two other women in veils: 26-year-old Zaira Aliyeva and 34-year-old Dzhannet Tsakhayeva.
- It said the women had been trained "to perpetrate acts of terrorism."
- It further warned that the two women "are probably among us," but unlike Ibragimova's case, did not say if they are in Sochi.
- No further information was provided about the two women or their motivation.
- The term "black widow" refers to the belief that women who have carried out past suicide attacks in Russia did so to avenge the deaths of husbands or other male relatives.

Stars help Gen Y shoot for the career moon

Taking off. A galaxy of leaders, including astronaut Chris Hadfield, connect with millennials to help get their work lives off the ground

Astronaut Chris Hadfield is one of the experts in the Ten Thousand Coffees program. GETTY IMAGES

Dave Wilkin credits a meeting over coffee with changing his life and setting him on a path.

A student at the University of Waterloo, he had a single goal: find a job.

He sent out hundreds of emails to business leaders in hopes of landing work. In most cases, he didn't hear back at all.

But he got a response back from Mia Pearson, a communications executive, who invited him to meet her for a coffee at a Toronto café. Within minutes of the meeting, she urged Wilkin to start his own company.

He did just that — and nearly five years later, his social media marketing firm Redwood Strategic, which specializes in targeting millennials, is doing a booming business.

But Wilkin, 25, knows many young people, whether they are still in school or figuring out what career to pursue, would benefit from the guidance he got.

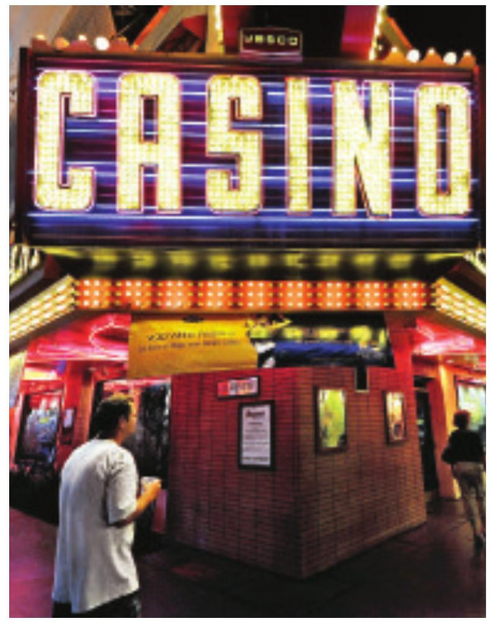
So Wilkin is taking that idea of the coffee conversation and formalizing it as Ten Thousand Coffees, which launched Tuesday at tenthousandcoffees.com.

Some heavy hitters have signed up: astronaut Chris Hadfield, comic Rick Mercer and Twitter Canada head Kirstine Stewart. Bank executives, non-profit leaders, lawyers and academics are among the 300 experts in 21 industries participating.

Even though the program is called Ten Thousand Coffees, Wilkin says the meetings connecting Gen Y and seasoned experts can be over coffee or take place anywhere, including on Skype, Google Hangouts or "any vehicle to ignite the conversations."

The meetings can focus on career advice, how to start a business, or simply sharing a big idea, but Wilkin said it is up to the individuals to decide, and whether they want to formalize the relationship.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Golden Gate bets on Bitcoin

The Golden Gate Hotel & Casino is seen on Fremont Street in downtown Las Vegas. Starting today, patrons at the Golden Gate and the D casino will be able to use the online currency Bitcoin to pay for rooms, food and drinks. The cybercurrency will also be accepted at the D's gift shop and two restaurants. U.S. dollars will remain the only currency accepted on the casinos' gambling floors. ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

Market Minute

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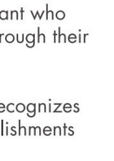
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WATCHING NHL SAME AS BAR BRAWL

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Good morning, class.

Today's topic is: NHL hockey — Big League or Bush League?

Yes, we have to go there after Saturday night, when the Vancouver Canucks and Calgary Flames re-enacted that classic hockey movie Slapshot by starting a brawl off the opening faceoff.

Once the final whistle (mercifully) blew, the referees had assessed 204 minutes in penalties, and Kellan Lain, a new Canucks bruiser playing his first game in the bigs, set an NHL record for being ejected two seconds into the start of his career.

As amazing as all that was, it was nothing compared to what happened between the first and second period, when Canucks coach John Tortorella decided to invade the Calgary dressing room in an attempt to get to Calgary coach Bob Hartley, no doubt to enter into a dialogue about fostering peaceful coexistence.

Tortorella has been suspended for 15 days without pay to cool off, but enjoys a hero's status in Vancouver, where he's being hailed as some kind of hockey warrior god who sticks up for his guys.

Of course, the whole episode is not playing so well outside Metro Vancouver. In fact, Peter Gammons, who works for Major League Baseball, went as far as to tweet, "Calgary and Vancouver last night reiterated why the NHL is a minor sport."

Wounded hockey fans wanted to know who the hell this Peter Gammons is, and I guess it won't matter that he was America's National Sportswriter of the year in 1989, '90 and '93 and received an honorary Poynter Fellowship from Yale. Betcha he's a pussy.

Meanwhile, hockey fans are still getting a buzz off the Winter Classic on New Year's Day when 100,000 turned up in a snowstorm to watch the Leafs beat the Red Wings. See? Ain't no minor sport.

So is a sport that features the on-ice equivalent of a bar-room brawl right from the opening faceoff a minor sport or not? And speaking of minorities, I never feel more minor than when I'm at the arena and a couple of goons drop their gloves. Thousands of otherwise sane and rational moms, dads, friends and lovers leap to their feet and let out a bloodthirsty roar of approval. The only thing better, apparently, than two goons, is 10 goons.

At least, say hockey's apologists, we no longer have bench-clearing brawls. Well, that's a relief. Now all we have to do is put an armed guard outside the opposing team's dressing room in case Coach decides to go postal between periods.

Oddly enough, I still believe pro hockey is big league. The brilliance of the playmaking, skill and speed somehow survives the worst efforts of its most dedicated cavemen.

And you'll be pleased to hear a recent survey shows that fighting has declined. There are only 0.88 fights a game! It's the dawn of civilized hockey.

Now if someone would just tell the coach.

ZOOM

Hue can be happy with colour

ILLUSTRATION BY MATTHEW MCGUINNESS/PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Pleasing to more than just the eye

Thousands of vibrant street style photos (right) were used to design this mood-boosting sun illustration.

The colour yellow is associated with invigorating your state of mind, while red, a tempestuous shade and pigment of passion, can swing either way in the direction of love or hate. Colour does affect your mood. Angela Wright, one of the leading experts in colour psychology and author of A Theory of Colour Psychology and Colour Harmony, roots this in evolution: "Humans have developed an innate reaction to colour as a survival mechanism. People derive deep spiritual pleasure from the rich greens of a summer landscape but can be depressed by long periods of grey, overcast weather." METRO

Clickbait

TAKARA SMALL
takara.small@metronews.ca

ISTOCKIMAGES

It's right about this time of year — just after Christmas but before the yearly April tax deadline — that people tend to take a closer (some would argue honest) look at their personal finances. They hum and haw over what they've saved too little for or, if you're like me, spent too much on. There's plenty of reasons to get your finances in order, but thanks to an increasingly crowded app environment, more and more companies are creating applications to make budgeting easier. Here are some budget apps to help clean up your money woes:

Level money:

Devoid of the snark and finger wagging that usually accompanies budget apps, this money saver breaks down how much you spend into easy-to-read graphs. You can see how much you spend every day, week and month, with new transactions added to your budget in real time.

Mint:

This app keeps track of your money and goals by using your financial information (bank accounts, loans) to keep tabs on you. Every transaction you make is logged and will warn you if you spend more than you've budgeted for any activity — think shopping or dinners out.

Debt Manager:

If you're one of many Canadians whose finances are in the red, then this app is for you. Besides a progress bar and accrued-interest guides, it also keeps track of monthly payments for those pesky student loans and your monthly transactions.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: You can get insurance to cover 'change of heart' for your wedding. If you could get it, would you?

@Canucklehead_ca: No. That being said, my wife is curious if it can be bought retroactively - say a decade and a bit? (Must be asking for a friend.)

@MileagePhoto: would buy this for pizza that has been ordered but not yet delivered.

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:
Send us your comments: reginaletters@metronews.ca

metro

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Frankenstein's creation is back from the dead, again

Creature feature. The monster may have many names, but he's been a fixture on the silver screen since the birth of cinema

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

The eight-foot-tall, gruesomely ugly creation of Victor Frankenstein has been called many things. In the original Mary Shelley novel he is named The Ogre. In the credits of the Boris Karloff film he is referred to as The Monster. He's also been called a fiend, the thing and the demon.

All those terms are apt for a creature born of dead body parts but a new movie adds a different name to the list — Adam. As in Adam Frankenstein.

I, Frankenstein stars Aaron Eckhart as Adam, the prefab man. He's now an immortal martial arts expert battling a war between rival clans in an ancient city. The character takes the name from the Shelley book. Sort of.

Shelley never gave the monster a name. People often mistakenly refer to him as Frankenstein, but in the novel the creature says to Victor, "I ought to be thy Adam; but I am rather the fallen angel."

Whatever you want to call him, Frankenstein's Monster has always been a popular character in the movies.

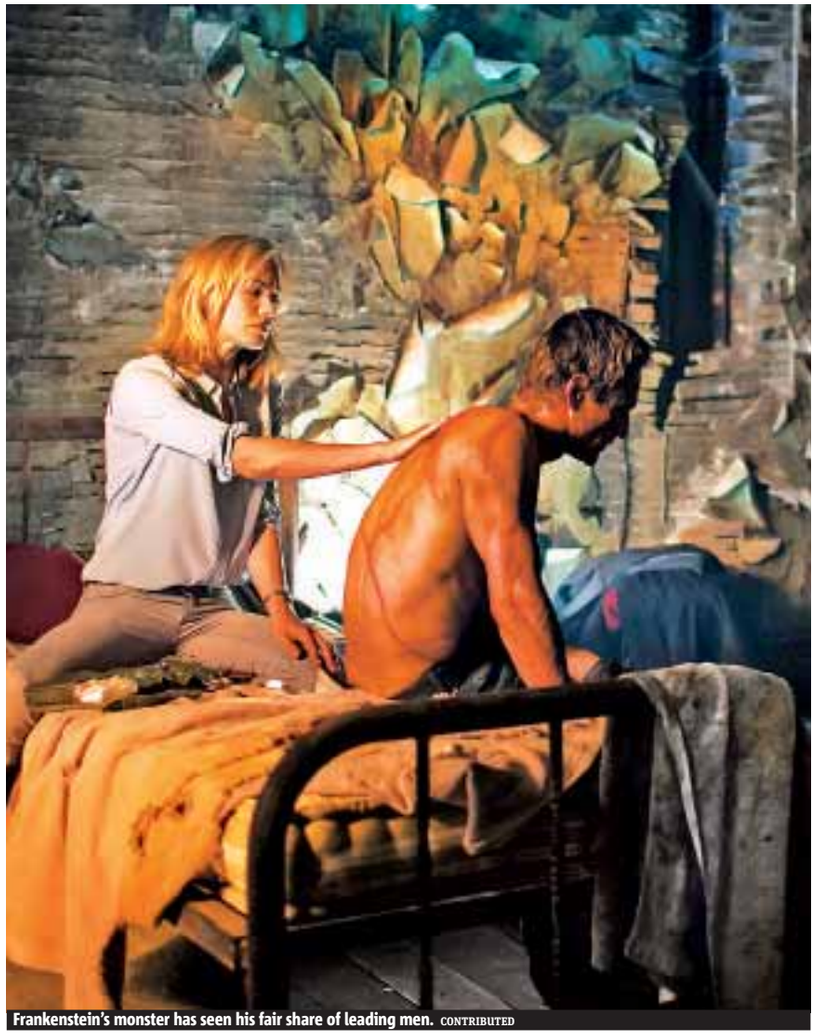
The most famous film featuring the creature has to be Boris Karloff's 1931 classic, but it wasn't the first. Five silent films, one with the dramatic title Life Without Soul and another that featured the brute emerging from a cauldron of fiery chemicals, all played to packed houses.

From those dramatic beginnings dozens of movies followed.

Robert De Niro played the beast in Mary Shelley's Frankenstein. On the set director Kenneth Branagh banned the word "monster," insisting instead that everyone refer to the creature the same way he is billed in the credits, as "The Sharp Featured Man."

Frankenstein: The College Years is basically an unlikely mix of Shelley's story and Encino Man. Directed by Tom Shadyac, this 1991 comedy sees college student Mark (William Ragsdale) reanimate Dr. Frankenstein's creature who then becomes a football star and a big man on campus known as Frank N. Stein (Vincent Hammond). "He blends right in," says Mark of the six-foot-nine Frank. "He's a regular invisible man."

The movie The Bride, a 1985 remake of The Bride of Frankenstein starring Sting and Jennifer Beals, gave the fiend yet another name. He was dubbed Viktor but not in tribute to his creator Victor Frankenstein. In this retelling the good doctor is known as Baron Charles Frankenstein. The name Viktor was chosen in tribute to the film's producer Victor Drai.



Frankenstein's monster has seen his fair share of leading men. CONTRIBUTED

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Kurt Russell ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

After Walker's death, Russell's unsure of his own Fast & Furious role

Calling his late cast mate Paul Walker "a terrific guy," Kurt Russell says he's not sure what will happen with his role in the latest Fast & Furious movie.

Russell joined the seventh film in the franchise and plays a father figure to Vin Diesel's character Dominic Toretto.

The 62-year-old actor said he had one day left of filming when Walker died in a car crash outside Los Angeles last November.

"They're having to rewrite, they're having to do whatever they're having to do to deal with the situation. Listen, it's catastrophic. It's the worst thing that could happen to a movie, but it's not as bad as what happened to Paul," Russell said in an interview at the Sundance Film Festival.

The latest film in the fast-car franchise, directed by James Wan, is now set for release in April 2015. Russell expects to return to set sometime this year.

Russell said of his character, who he didn't name: "Whether or not this guy dies off in the movie, we don't know, and that may have changed now significantly too."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Joan Rivers

Did Kelly Osbourne have a few too many at a Joan Rivers show?

Joan Rivers is a pro when it comes to dealing with hecklers at her stand-up shows, but what about when the nuisance is caused by a co-worker? A seemingly intoxicated Kelly Osbourne reportedly made quite a scene at Fashion Police co-host Rivers' recent gig in Los Angeles, according to Radar Online. "Kelly had one drink before the show started, and then during the show she got up and went to the bar to get even more drinks," a source says. "Kelly was yelling things out to Joan during the show when no one else was and she was throwing her hands up in the air. She was doing it obnoxiously. Everyone around her thought she was drunk." After the show, another witness spotted Osbourne "banging on the door to get backstage after the show. She grabbed her friend as she was leaving and was hanging onto him. It seemed so obvious that she had been drinking."

The Word

Justin Bieber leaves his autograph... in the snow

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News

What's the best way to distract from a sexting scandal, alleged drug abuse and possible criminal vandalism charges? How about adding public urination into the mix?

That's the strategy that Justin Bieber is reportedly deploying, at any rate. Biebs and his posse are in Colorado right now. They were on the road when the pop star felt the sudden call of nature and decided to pull over to relieve himself. But not in the woods or off the freeway — rather, in the affluent residential neighbourhood of Snowmass.

According to TMZ, local residents looked on in shock as Bieber peed in the snow right in front of them. After he'd zipped up and headed off to take care of whatever important Bieber business he was pursuing, they crept up to the scene of the crime and found that he'd whizzed his initials into the snow.

At least he's creative. Most celebrities' downward spirals are pretty boring, at least from the outside: drugs, booze, drugs, girls, fights, drugs. Bieber has all of that, but also public urination and pranks. It certainly keeps things lively.

Kanye West

'God, sex and alcohol' is how Kanye copes

If you were curious as to how Kanye West coped with the aftermath of his infamous 2009 MTV Video Music Awards stage-crashing of Taylor Swift, it was with "God, sex and alcohol," he tells 12 Years a Slave director Steve McQueen in a feature for Interview Magazine. "I don't have an addictive personality, so that means that I can lean on what might be someone else's vice just enough to make it through to the next day. You know, just enough religion, a half-cup of alcohol with some ice in it and a nice chaser, and then I'd make it to the next week."

Harry Styles cozies up to a mystery brunette at Sundance

Harry Styles

Harry Styles is still romantically linked to Kendall Jenner, but the One Direction star was turning heads at the Sundance Film Festival thanks to the attention he was paying to a brunette member of his entourage, according to E! News. "He was with three guys and two girls. They were all sitting together in a corner booth laughing and having a good time," a source says. "As the night went on, I could see Harry flirting with the brunette. At one point it was just the two of them canoodling in the corner. They were really into each other." But Jenner shouldn't worry too much, as the source insists that getting cozy and flirty was as far as it went.

Twitter

@rustyrockets
Does 3 second rule apply to phones dropped in the toilet?

@Louis_Tomlinson
Getting really excited to start writing for the next record

@ladygaga
Your talents are like crops in a garden. Cultivate them and they will grow stronger each season. Every market will want your yield.

Fans of the Beatles are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the band's U.S. televised debut. While it all culminates with a star-studded Los Angeles tribute concert (to be televised Feb. 9), there are many other ways to honour the Fab Four around the globe.

STEVE GOW
life@metronews.ca

4 Stops on a Magical Mystery Tour

Liverpool, U.K.

The birthplace of the Beatles. There's perhaps no better place to bathe in Beatlemania than Liverpool. Whether it's touring the Beatles Story museum — which boasts the biggest permanent exhibition faithful to the Fab Four — visiting the childhood homes of John Lennon and Paul McCartney or sleeping at the Yellow Submarine Hotel floating in historic Albert Dock, the Merseyside city is the epicentre for fans. Be sure to stop by the infamous Cavern Club and grab a pint where The Beatles performed over 290 shows in their early days.
Songs to highlight your visit: Penny Lane, Yellow Submarine

Abbey Road, London

On the bucket list of most Fab Four followers is getting to London's famous Abbey Road. Located in the St. John's Wood district of the English capital (don't get confused with the Abbey Road transit station in the east end), this simple crosswalk is where many Beatlemaniacs recreate the iconic street-crossing cover of group's last recorded album. While the actual Abbey Road Studios is a short stroll away, don't expect much access to the Beatles' famous song salon. It's still a world-class workshop for musicians.
Songs to highlight your visit: Come Together, Something

Strawberry Fields, New York

John Lennon may have lived in Manhattan for less than a decade, but he left an indelible mark on the city. With an entrance directly across from the Dakota apartments (where Lennon lived for the latter part of his life), Strawberry Fields in Central Park is a large, serene memorial garden dedicated to Lennon. A short walk through will reveal the famous Imagine pathway mosaic.
Songs to highlight your visit: Strawberry Fields Forever, Imagine

Imagine Peace Tower, Iceland

The Beatles' legacy has even pervaded the north. Visitors to Videy Island near Iceland's capital of Reykjavik can see the Imagine Peace Tower that was built to honour John Lennon. Created by Yoko Ono, the tower bears the words "imagine peace" in 24 languages, and the memorial sends beams of lights toward the sky.
Songs to highlight your visit: Across the Universe, The Ballad of John and Yoko

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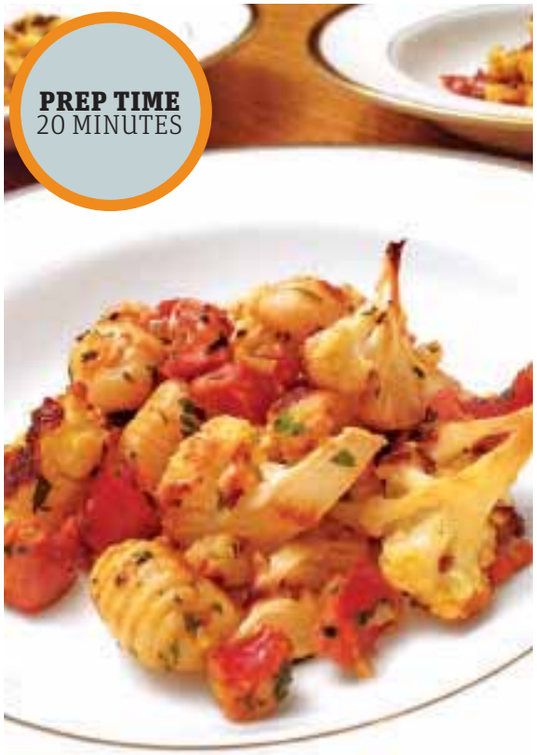

This recipe makes six servings. EMILY RICHARDS

Pillowy softness and slight crunch in every bite

Roasted Cauliflower and Chorizo Gnocchi.

The chunky sauce in this dish offers perfect texture and flavour

DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

There are so many people who just don't like cauliflower. But why? It is such a versatile and delicious vegetable, raw or cooked.

You can add it to soups or stews for added vegetable flavour and texture. Serve it up raw or blanched on a veggie tray, or how about pickled — one of my faves!

My current favourite way, however, to serve up cauliflower is roasting it. It adds a slight crunch and decadent flavour that is so simple but yet addictive. I am pretty sure I have eaten a whole head of roasted cauliflower myself after taking it out of the oven!

So how do you roast cauliflower? I've found the best approach is to simply remove the stem and tough core and cut the cauliflower into small florets. By doing this, more surface area gets exposed to becoming roasted and charred for an absolutely delightful texture and flavour.

In this particular recipe, I pumped up the flavour of the cauliflower by adding semi dry chorizo sausage and simple onion, garlic and parsley. It resulted in a dish worthy of my own restaurant menu.

Ingredients

- 1 head cauliflower, cut into small florets
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) extra virgin olive oil
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) each salt and fresh ground pepper
- 1 pkg (250 g) semi cured mild chorizo sausage, chopped
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) chicken or vegetable broth
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) chopped fresh parsley
- 1 pkg (1 lb/454 g) gnocchi (fresh or frozen)
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) butter

1. In a large bowl, toss the cauliflower florets with 2 tbsp (30 ml) of the extra virgin oil, salt and freshly ground pepper. Spread over parchment paper lined baking sheet and roast in 400 F (200 C) oven for about 45 minutes or until golden brown and tender crisp. Set aside. You can do this the night before for a quick weeknight meal the next day.

2. In a large nonstick skillet, heat the remaining extra virgin oil over medium heat and sauté the chorizo sausage, onion and garlic for about 8 minutes or until soft and starting to become golden. Stir in the chicken or vegetable broth and parsley. Keep warm.

3. Meanwhile, in a pot of boiling salted water, cook gnocchi for about 5 minutes or until they float to the top and are tender but firm. Using a slotted spoon or small sieve lift gnocchi out of water and add to skillet with sausage and onion. Add butter and cook over low heat. Stir in roasted cauliflower and toss to combine until heated through. Serve in shallow bowls.

Chicken and tortellini get tossed together

You can use leftover chicken for this dish or pick up a rotisserie chicken and make it that much faster! Sun-dried tomatoes are packed in oil and that oil has lots of flavour. In this salad dressing I've used the oil to add more flavour and enhance the sun-dried tomatoes added to it. If there isn't quite enough oil in your jar, you can use extra virgin olive oil instead. If you need to moisten or refresh the salad before serving, simply drizzle a little more sun-dried tomato or olive oil and toss again.

This recipe makes four servings. EMILY RICHARDS

Ingredients

- 1 pkg (about 400 g) marinated boneless skinless chicken breasts
- 1 pkg (350 g) fresh three cheese tortellini
- Half red bell pepper, chopped
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) chopped fresh parsley
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) finely chopped sundried tomatoes packed in oil

Dressing

- 2 tbsp (25 ml) sund-ried tomato oil
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) sherry or apple cider vinegar
- 1 tsp (5 ml) Dijon mustard
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- Pinch each salt and pepper

1. Place chicken breasts on greased nonstick grill pan over medium heat, close lid and grill for about 12 minutes, turning once or until no longer pink inside. Remove to a cutting board and chop.

2. In pot of boiling salted water, cook tortellini for about 5 minutes or until tender but firm. Drain and toss with chicken.

3. In a large bowl, combine tortellini, chicken, red pepper, parsley and sun-dried tomatoes.

4. Dressing: In a small bowl, whisk together sun-dried tomato oil, vinegar, mustard, garlic, salt and pepper. Drizzle over top of tortellini mixture and stir to coat. EMILY RICHARDS

Socially speaking: I'm here and hireable

Look before your Link. Why keeping your professional profile polished is imperative

SIDNEYEVE MATRIX
TalentEgg.ca

While Facebook is for friends, think of Linkedin as the social network for your career.

Part job board and part social platform, on LinkedIn you can make industry connections, do employer research, share updates and post a multimedia resumé.

Many students ignore the site until after graduation, mistakenly thinking it is just for job seekers. As a result, those few who start developing their LinkedIn network early, even before graduating from high school, have a distinct advantage when it's time to apply for colleges, awards, grad school, internships and jobs.

Value across the board

Even if by some chance the HR department or selection committee that matters to you is not actively recruiting on LinkedIn, there are still two very good reasons to establish your profile there.

- Today, many hiring and admissions committees are using social screening to vet candidates. If your Facebook profile is set to "private" — as it probably is and likely should be — then your LinkedIn page becomes more visible and important to someone Googling you. Build your LinkedIn profile by including a list of all courses completed, your extra-curriculars, and volunteering activities. Held a leadership position on or off campus? List it. Won (or shortlisted, even nominated for) an award? Let LinkedIn know.
- Prepping for an interview means finding out everything about a company, especially all their most recent initiatives, such as social media marketing campaigns and social good activities, awards and newsworthy happenings. Every candidate is asked, "Do you have any questions?" and you always have to have some. LinkedIn is a valuable interview prep research tool.

Build your network before you need it

You might have a large social network of friends and personal connections on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

But if you want to make a professional impact, start growing your LinkedIn network today.

Compare yourself: in 2013 the average network size of a LinkedIn member was between 200 and 100 connections, and fewer than 10 per cent of users have less than 50 connections.

After you make the 500th connection, your LinkedIn profile will simply display the size of your network as "500+," so this is an obvious goal to strive for as an active LinkedIn networker.

Does the size of your LinkedIn contacts list really matter? Many professional networkers say it does.

If you want to take full advantage of the professional opportunities on LinkedIn and get the maximum return-on-investment for the time you spend using it, you must be proactive about establishing many relevant, valuable connections.

If you're (even partially) convinced that LinkedIn is a good idea for you, here are two things you can do to develop your professional profile:

With over 250 million users, LinkedIn is an obvious platform for recruiters to source talent. Case in point: 90 per cent of Fortune 100 companies use LinkedIn to find future hires. ISTOCK

Visually signal professional memberships

- On the social web, visual communication matters: make it obvious to those who glance at your LinkedIn profile that you are connected, informed, actively engaged and interested in your chosen field or industry.
- Follow companies or organizations that matter. Subscribe to updates from LinkedIn influencers in your field. Thinking strategically, not only will these affiliations increase the relevance of your LinkedIn newsfeed exponentially, they will also be displayed on your profile.

Action steps

The Non-Selfie: Get A Real Headshot

Ever noticed the profile photos students have on LinkedIn? The most common headshot used is a selfie, a prom photo, or a cap-and-gown graduation shot. By comparison, you'll instantly look more professional if you invest some time and money in getting a great headshot by a professional photographer.

Once you have the perfect photo, increase your recognizability by consistently posting it on your Twitter, your blog, or anywhere you think employers might be looking for you.

What's Your Tagline?

By default, your LinkedIn profile headline will list your most recent job title. So instead of advertising yourself as "XYZ Student at ABC University," swap the generic description for a keyword-rich one that will increase your discoverability by LinkedIn and Google searches.

Think up on keywords to describe your job history or career aspirations. Then use that creative description as your (120-character maximum) profile headline instead.

THIS ARTICLE IS EXCERPTED FROM MY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE IN PERSONAL BRANDING WITH SOCIAL MEDIA, OFFERED ONLINE AT QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY.

It doesn't have to be a semester of KD

Some food for thought. Avoid both an empty stomach and an empty bank account by devouring these suggestions

RIANA TOPAN
TalentEgg.ca

It's important to follow a balanced diet of nutritious foods to stay healthy. However, a lot of people find it difficult to make good choices in the grocery store, whether it's because the healthier items are more expensive than the less nutritious ones or because we don't always know which foods are best for us.

If it's true that we are what we eat, we can't really afford to not make smart decisions when it comes to food.

Thankfully, and contrary to popular belief, eating well doesn't have to mean buying costly organic foods or shopping at pricey health food stores, though if you can afford to get your groceries at your local farmers' market or health food store, by all means do.

It can actually be quite easy to eat well while saving money on your grocery bill each month if you follow these simple tips.

Plan ahead

Before heading to the store, you should always check the store's flyer to see what's on sale and make a list of what you plan to buy.

Your shopping list should include staples and items that are on sale or in-season. If you have the time, you can visit multiple grocery stores to take advantage of sales at each place. If that's not an option, pick the store that usually has good deals. Know what you are able to spend before you start shopping and match it to your list in order to avoid impulse buys.

Track your total

There are better ways to start your days than with a bowl of chocolate cereal and your chemistry notes. ISTOCK

You've probably noticed that the cost of the contents of your shopping cart can add up quickly.

To avoid being surprised at the cash, keep track of what your total will be as you add each item to your cart or basket. Use the calculator on your phone or a notepad if you need to. Seem like a hassle? It's a great way to figure out which items really aren't worth what they bring to your table.

Make healthy choices

Begin your shopping by circling the store's perimeter, where the produce, bakery, meat and dairy sections usually are. Fill your cart up with fresh foods. Make an effort to choose items that are on sale. The food in the aisles is usually more processed, therefore less nutritious, and is often more expensive, though there are exceptions: lentils, beans and other legumes, and brown rice, barley, steel-cut oats and other whole grains are extremely healthy, filling, inexpensive food choices. If you are not already incorporating them into your diet, now is a good time to start. Your wallet and your body will benefit.

Kitchen in a click

Keep an eye out for simple, inexpensive recipes:

- There are dozens of websites and blogs filled with easy, healthy recipes that use low-cost ingredients. Vegetarian meals in particular are usually really inexpensive to make.
- Saving money doesn't mean cutting corners on flavour.

Buy in bulk

More often than not, choosing the largest size of something is the cheapest option. Think family-sized cereals and large bags of potatoes, onions and carrots, for example. Buy in bigger quantities when possible. If you're only shopping for one, try splitting purchases with roommates or friends. And when non-perishable items such as canned vegetables, beans, pasta and pasta sauce, cereals, crackers, flour, spices, dried fruit and nuts go on sale, stock up. It will mean a slightly larger cost upfront but you'll be saving yourself money in the long run.

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Aussie men pledge allegiance to 'Genie'

Eugenie Bouchard, holding a stuffed animal of a wombat thrown by one of her admirers, celebrates after defeating Ana Ivanovic at the Australian Open, Tuesday. RICK RYCROFT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Supporters of Canada's Eugenie Bouchard watch her quarter-final match against Ana Ivanovic in Melbourne, Tuesday. ANDREW BROWNBILL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Australian Open. Fans will see a lot more of Canadian Bouchard as she moves up the ranks

They've composed chants just for Canadian tennis player Eugenie Bouchard, roared for her until they went hoarse, and toasted her wins by fudging their way through "O Canada."

Meet the "Genie Army" — a dozen boisterous Aussies who, despite boasting zero connection to Canada, have become Bouchard's unofficial cheerleaders at the Australian Open.

Members of the weeks-old squad have jumped, danced and serenaded their way into an unmistakable grandstand presence during the Montreal teen's impressive run at the event, where she has earned a spot in Thursday's semifinal.

The devotees, mostly men in their 20s, have also fashioned red-and-white T-shirts that spell out Bouchard's name, flapped banners for her during matches, and lobbed plush animals — each of them native to Australia — to her on the court following each of her victories.

Though they have had little face-to-face interaction with Bouchard, they have certainly commanded her attention in Melbourne.

"The crowd here has been amazing, especially the Genie Army," Bouchard, 19, said Tuesday during an on-court interview after beating Ana Ivanovic.

She then pointed up to her noisy personal cheering section.

"I've had so much fun. Thank you guys."

The inspiration behind a brigade dedicated to Bouchard came after a bunch of Australian buddies watched her upset Ivanovic last year at Wimbledon, said one of the Army members.

In December, as the Australian Open approached, Jacob Wright said the crew decided to become her own booster club, so they started making shirts and penning Bouchard chants.

The Genie Army was born.

"She's just a great tennis player," Wright, 20, told The Canadian Press in a Skype interview from Melbourne.

"Obviously, she's a good-looking girl as well, and we're young guys, but she is a really good tennis player. It's really, really good fun to watch."

Their movement has had nothing to do with patriotism, either. When asked whether any of them had a connection to Canada, he replied: "None of us." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quarter-final Wednesday

Dominika Cibulkova won the last eight games in a one-hour, 6-3, 6-0 quarter-final rout Wednesday of No. 11-seeded Simona Halep.

- The diminutive Cibulkova, among the shortest women on the WTA tour at 5-3 pounded Halep from the back of the court to progress to her first Grand Slam semifinal since the 2009 French Open.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sochi Games

Canada names snowboard roster

Defending Olympic gold medallist Jasey-Jay Anderson and 2010 Olympian Dominique Maltais are among 19 athletes added to Canada's Olympic snowboard team.

Anderson, from Mont-Tremblant, Que., claimed gold in the men's parallel giant slalom at the 2010 Vancouver Games and is a four-time world champion.

Maltais, from Petite-Riviere-St-Francois, Que., won bronze in snowboard cross at the 2006 Games and silver at the 2013 worlds.

Regina's Mark McMorris was also officially named to the team and will make his first Olympic appearance in men's snowboard cross. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

A-Rod's peers want him out of union

Several angry major league players wanted Alex Rodriguez kicked out of their union after he sued it last week, but staff lawyers told them expulsion was not allowed.

Rodriguez also sued Major League Baseball to overturn an arbitrator's decision suspending him for the 2014 season and post-season.

Details were first reported Tuesday by Yahoo Sports and later confirmed to The Associated Press by a person familiar with the call. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because no statements were authorized. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'In my mind I've moved on': Calvillo

Anthony Calvillo wipes his eyes Tuesday in Montreal. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Anthony Calvillo isn't sure where he'll be when the Montreal Alouettes open training camp in June.

He just knows that for the first time since '98 he won't be on the field in his teal-coloured No. 13 practice jersey.

The 41-year-old who rewrote the record book for quarterbacks announced his retirement Tuesday following a 20-year career. It's an end Calvillo knew was coming when he missed the final 10 games of the regular season with a concussion.

Owner on Calvillo

"Arguably one of the great players in the history of professional football."

Alouettes owner Robert Wetenhall

"My mind was pretty much made up at the end of the season that I wanted to retire," said Calvillo. "I went on holidays to think about it but I was 99 per cent sure.

"In my mind I've moved on. The process of being hurt helped me go through the transition. So when June comes around, I don't know where I'll be."

Calvillo leaves as pro football's most prolific passer (79,816 yards) and the CFL's all-time leader in completions (5,892), attempts (9,437) and TD strikes (455). He also holds records for completions in one game (44), most 300-yard contests (125) and 4,000-yard seasons (11). Calvillo led Montreal to eight Grey Cup appearances, winning in 2002, 2009 and 2010. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Usual suspects pickup 2013 accolades

Canadian vehicle sales. Record year in 2013 is spurred on by trusted, popular brands and a whole lot of pickup sales

AUTO PILOT
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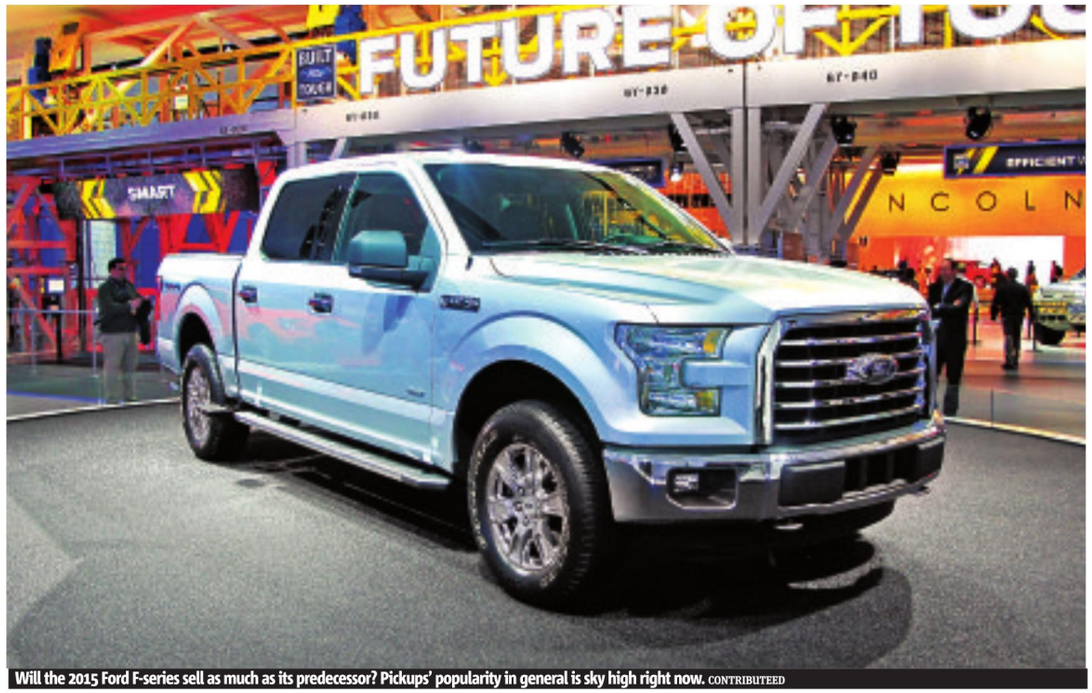

Will the 2015 Ford F-series sell as much as its predecessor? Pickups' popularity in general is sky high right now. CONTRIBUTEED

The big news is that Canadians purchased over 1.7 million new vehicles in 2013, breaking the previous sales record, which stood for over a decade.

The not-so-big news is that the nameplates that did most of the heavy lifting in 2013 are ones we've seen before: F-Series, Honda Civic, Dodge Grand Caravan, Ford Escape, etc.

Man, as a group of vehicle buyers, Canadians are so predictable and consistent. We love our pickups, our compact sedans, our minivans, and our compact SUVS and crossovers. It would have been cool if, say, the Maserati Quattroporte outsold the Toyota Corolla, just once! But it's never going to happen I suspect.

Analysts attribute the sales surge to pent-up demand, a slowly recovering economy, and lots of lots of pickups being sold, particularly out west where the economy continues to be hotter than Tex-Mex BBQ sauce. Total pickup sales crossed the 300,000-unit frontier for the first time in history. Lots of pickup sales for work-related ventures for sure, but analysts say the trend toward more personal use pickups is also at play. The Ford F-Series topped all trucks and cars again in 2013, for its forth-consecutive overall sales crown.

It will be interesting to see if the all-new F-Series just introduced at the Detroit auto show will continue the winning legacy, seeing that Ford rolled the dice somewhat on this new model. It's the first pickup with virtually all-aluminum body panels, for a lighter and more fuel-efficient truck.

This should certainly appeal to the personal use crowd, but many wonder if the complexity and cost involved in fixing inadvertently crashed and dinged aluminum might scare off some fleet and commercial customers. Chrysler's Ram pickups continue to make headway. As a group, they're still third behind the Ford and GM competitors, but an awfully strong third. Not long ago they used to be afterthoughts in the full-size segment. Strong F-Series, Focus, Fusion, and Escape sales helped Ford regain the top-selling automaker status in the Canadian marketplace, followed by Chrysler, then GM.

Top 10 sellers in 2013

1) Ford F-Series Pickup - 122,325
2) Chevrolet and GMC Pickup - 84,398
3) Dodge Ram Pickup- 80,248
4) Honda Civic - 64,603*
5) Dodge and Chrysler Minivan - 55,157
6) Toyota Corolla - 55,138
7) Hyundai Elantra - 54,760
8) Ford Escape - 45,141
9) Mazda 3 - 40,466
10) Honda CRV - 34,481

*TOP SELLING PASSENGER CAR
SOURCE: AUTOMOTIVE NEWS DATA CENTRE.

Jaguar is not going to threaten the Big Three anytime soon, or any of its luxury competitors as well, but it did post one of the best year-over-year increases: 1,263 Jaguars were sold in 2013, compared to 644 in 2012, an almost 100 per cent improvement. Certainly helping were the 229 F-type sports cars that found buyers in 2013. Jaguar has been out of that particular sports car segment for far too long, and it's great to see them back, and back with such a strong car. Other highlights and low-lights of the 2013 sales year:

When it came to strictly passenger cars (no trucks or CUVs or SUVs or minivans), Toyota was top, with a 12.8 percent share of the overall market. But Hyundai was not far behind with a 12.4 percent share. Honda was third with an 11.9 percent share.

Nissan Leaf sales almost doubled (470 vs. 240), while Chevrolet Volt's sales performance went somewhat the other way: down to 931 units, from 1,225 in 2012. Smart is staying consistent: 2,387 sales in 2012; 2,237 sales in 2013. Corvette is winning more fans: 324 sales, compared to 250 last year. Two-hundred and fourteen new Ferraris went home with their lucky new buyers in 2013, up slightly from 2012, where 190 made the getaway.

*Limited time 2.9% semi-monthly lease offered through Toyota Financial Services on approved credit to qualified retail customers on all new 2014 Corolla models. First semi-monthly payment due at lease inception and next semi-monthly payment due approximately 15 days later and semi-monthly thereafter throughout the term. Toyota Financial Services will waive the final semi-monthly payment. Semi-monthly lease offers not open to employees of Toyota Canada, Toyota Financial Services or TMMC/TMMC Vehicle Purchase Plan. Some conditions apply. See your Toyota dealer for complete details. Example (applies across Canada except Quebec): 2014 Corolla CE 6M with a vehicle price of $16,415 (includes $1,100 Toyota Canada Lease Assist, which is deducted from the negotiated selling price after taxes, and $1,520 freight/PDI) leased at 2.9% over 60 months with $0 down payment equals 120 semi-monthly payments of $89 with a cost of borrowing of $1,735.85 and a total obligation of $12,369.05. $0 security deposit and first semi-monthly payment due at lease inception. Price and total obligation exclude license, insurance, registration, fees and taxes. 100,000 km allowance for 60 months, with ability to purchase additional kilometres at $0.05/km at time of lease inception, and a charge of $0.07/km for excess kilometres. Dealer may lease for less.

Is the aftermarket stereo a dying breed?

Autoknow. Touch screens in new cars are so integrated with vehicle systems that it might be next to impossible to upgrade the audio

TODD D. BURLAGE
wheelbasemedia.com

The aftermarket audio industry has thrived on the lack of attention the automakers have given to sound quality, but the landscape is quickly changing. While there will likely always be someone willing to pay to upgrade, the new crop of touchscreens installed at the factory presents a major concern.

With touchscreens neatly integrated into the dash of even inexpensive cars such as this Chevy Spark, is it even possible to put in an aftermarket audio system? Better speakers and amplifiers seem more likely. ALL IMAGES WHEELBASE

As smartphones and in-car touchscreen music systems move from the exception to the rule, the technology tsunami threatens what was once a pretty standard ritual: getting rid of the factory stereo for something much better/cooler from the local electronics emporium.

The days of buying a tape deck and a pair of 6x9-inch speakers are long gone, but did anyone see this coming? A recent study released by IMS Research, a leading supplier of market analysis in the global electronics industry, asked the tough question facing top car-stereo companies such as Alpine, Kenwood and Pioneer: are vehicle manufacturers causing the death of the traditional aftermarket car stereo?

The IMS report projects that aftermarket stereo sales in North America and Western Europe will slip from $1.7 billion U.S. in 2011 to $718 million in 2018, a nearly 60 per cent decline across seven years.

The reasons for the free-fall forecast in the sale of head units — also called receivers or "decks," and the centre-piece of the car stereo system — are many and growing.

But most industry analysts believe aftermarket stereo demand is being undermined mainly in three areas: modern and intricate dashboard designs; the difficulty of replacing a standard stock system, and an improved quality in stereos rolling off assembly lines. IMS senior analyst Jack Berquist said that for aftermarket stereo manufacturers to stay profitable, or even afloat, a marketing evolution needs to take place.

"The industry is going to see a shift away from high-volume, low-cost units to low-volume, high-cost and more advanced units," Berquist explained. "If manufacturers aren't able to innovate and assess new markets effectively in this period, future success will be hard to guarantee."

Quoted

"The industry is going to see a shift away from high-volume/low-cost units to low-volume/high-cost and more advanced units."

Jack Berquist, IMS senior analyst

Then and Now

As a history lesson, it was the mid-1980s, an era when rockers Motley Crew, Van Halen and Guns N' Roses ruled the airwaves and cassette decks, that remains the golden age of the aftermarket stereo business. Most vehicle models of the era featured a uniformly sized rectangular cavity in the dashboard that allowed for snug and easy installation of a replacement system with pleasing aesthetics and terrific sound. Changing today's stock systems, units that often feature cutout-free stereos integrated into seamless dashboards, is a much more complex and costly process, and arguably the main reason the IMS study predicts a sales decline so steep that stereo manufacturers are already scrambling to prepare. Adding to the complexity of replacing a standard issue stereo in a new car with an aftermarket unit is that the "infotainment" head units continue to become more integrated with other vehicle systems (see steering wheel mounted audio and climate controls), making replacement complicated and costly and perhaps impractical. With an estimated 33 per cent of drivers already using smartphones or MP3 players for in-car audio and automakers catering to those needs with full smartphone-integrated systems, the temptation and the need for a stereo upgrade has been diminished to the point of near pointlessness.

"These new developments from vehicle manufacturers could spell the end of the traditional aftermarket car radio in the next 10 years, especially in mature markets," the IMS study said. According to a story in USA Today, car-stereo makers and retailers continue to devise strategies that will help them survive a changing marketplace, the most logical of which may be to offer a larger catalogue of vehicle electronics that includes improved navigation devices, interactive gaming systems, and backseat video. Barry Vogel, the president of auto electronic trade group Mobile Enhancement Retailers Association, told the USA Today that broadening the demographic will be another important step for manufacturers to build and maintain their client base.

"The target audience is anyone who breathes and drives a car," Vogel said. "If we limited the market to that 16- to 24-year-old that we so loved (back in the aftermarket heyday), the industry will miss out."

Back to the Future

Safe to say with technology a growing battleground in the new-car market, auto builders have no interest in returning to a dashboard design that makes it easy to swap out head units. So what are stereo manufacturers to do?

"We need to make car audio cool again," Pioneer Electronics vice president Larry Rougas said at a recent industry summit. Complicated dashboards are forcing car-stereo manufacturers to circumvent the old laws of swap-and-go systems and gear their efforts toward accessories and integration kits. The more progressive aftermarket stereos mate with the factory audio system but hide the main unit underneath the seats. Installation runs the wires through the dash and into a mountable cradle that holds and allows a smartphone to control all the music features. Most of these systems also come SiriusXM and Pandora (Internet radio) ready and offer complete control of and by the cell phone. These near-future audio systems can perform almost all the tasks of a stock unit, with improved sound quality, but they come with a heavy price: integration replacement kits typically start at about $300 before installation, giving stereo specialists even more incentive to think out of the boom box with future system designs, product lineups and marketing strategies aimed at both the young and the mature buyer. "But it's not all doom and gloom for aftermarket manufacturers," the IMS study concluded. "The existing fraternity of diehard audiophiles who are willing to invest significantly to create a unique experience in their vehicles is unlikely to disappear in the future."

Quoted

"These new developments from vehicle manufacturers could spell the end of the traditional aftermarket car radio in the next 10 years, especially in mature markets."

Says the IMS study

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Fuel cell vehicles and their 'free energy'

Driving force. These hydrogen-powered machines make their own electricity and allow the occupant 385 kms off one tank

JIL MCINTOSH
Drive@metronews.ca

For all the technology that goes into them, battery-electric cars are relatively simple. You plug them into a wall, charge them up, and then drive them until they need to be charged again.

But there's an even more advanced model that makes its own electricity. Called a fuel cell vehicle, or FCV, it contains a fuel cell stack that produces power from hydrogen.

"It's a chemical process, not a combustion process," says Stephen Ellis, manager of fuel cell vehicle marketing for American Honda Motor Company. "In simplest terms, hydrogen is introduced on one side of a membrane and oxygen on the other side, and through the exchange of protons, electricity is made."

The thin membrane, which resembles cellophane plastic, is sandwiched between layers that form the hydrogen and oxygen electrodes. This "sandwich" is called a membrane electrode assembly. When a separator is attached on either side, the resulting unit is called a cell. Several hundred cells are stacked together — hence the name — to form the fuel cell stack. The separators provide room for hydrogen, air, and coolant to flow between the cells.

The fuel cell receives its hydrogen from a storage tank in the car, while it gets its oxygen from the outside air. The process of creating electricity releases water. Some of it remains in the stack, since the membrane has to stay damp, but the excess goes out the tailpipe. It's the only emission an FCV creates.

"When you turn the key and press the 'start' button, that begins the production of electricity," Ellis says. While fuel cells from ten years ago needed about 30 seconds to start working, today's versions take less than five seconds.

Honda's FCV contains a lithium-ion battery, which stores any excess electricity from the fuel cell. It also captures kinetic energy during deceleration and braking, and stores it as electricity. Ellis calls this "free energy," since it's power that's created without using hydrogen. During start-up and acceleration, when large amounts of power are needed, the battery supplements the fuel cell's output. The fuel cell also shuts down its electricity production when the car is stationary, so the battery provides power to run the lights, stereo, and other devices.

Honda's current fuel cell has a range of about 385 km on a tank of hydrogen, but an improved one coming next year will go about 480 km, even though it's 33 per cent smaller.

To note

- **Availability.** Honda's FCV, the Clarity, is primarily available in California, where several hydrogen filling stations are available. Hydrogen infrastructure remains a key obstacle for widespread FCV adoption.
- **Sources.** Hydrogen can be made from many sources, including natural gas, biomass, and even biogas from human waste.
- **BMW.** Cars can also burn hydrogen the same way they burn gasoline. BMW built a test fleet of 100 cars that used this process.
- **Origin.** Honda's first prototype FCV was introduced in 1999. It delivered its first cars to customers in Japan and the U.S. in 2002.

Filling up Honda's new FCV vehicle at a hydrogen station. CONTRIBUTED/HONDA

Honda's fuel cell stack which creates and stores up electricity. CONTRIBUTED

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The Offer applies to the first four bi-weekly payments for customers paying on a bi-weekly basis and the sum of 12 monthly payments divided by 26 and multiplied by 4 for customers paying on a monthly basis ("First 4 Bi-Weekly Payments"). Maximum amounts are $500 on 2013/2014 [Focus S and Fiesta S], $750 on 2013/2014 [Focus (excluding S), Fiesta (excluding S) and 2014 ESCAPE], $1,000 on 2013/2014 [Fusion], 2014 [Mustang (excluding Shelby GT500), Escape], $1,250 on 2013/2014 [Taurus, Edge], 2014 [F-150 Regular Cab, Super Cab, and Super Crew], $1,500 on 2013/2014 [Flex], 2014 [Explorer], $1,750 on 2014 [Expedition], All Mustang Shelby GT500, Transit Connect E-Series, F-150 Raptor, Super Duty, Medium Truck, Chassis, Stripped Cab and cutaway models excluded. Offer only available on approved credit (O.A.C.) from Ford Credit. If the equivalent of the First 4 Bi-Weekly Payments exceeds the maximum amount, the customer will be responsible for the balance. First 4 Bi-Weekly (or monthly payment equivalent, as applicable) payments are required from customer. Finance customers will receive a cheque for the amount of their First 4 Bi-Weekly Payments from the dealer. For RCL customers, the first month's payment will be waived and they will receive a cheque for the amount of two bi-weekly payments according to the formula described above – customer will then be responsible for making all of his/her remaining scheduled payments in accordance with their contract. Offer not available to cash purchase customers. Not combinable with CPP, CPA, GPC, Commercial Upfit Incentive Program or Daily Rental Allowances incentives. † Until January 31, 2014, receive $500/ $1,000/ $1,500/ $2,000 / $2,250/ $2,500/ $3,000/ $3,250/ $4,000/ $4,500/ $5,500/ $5,750/ $6,500/ $6,750/ $8,500/ $9,000/ $10,000/ $10,500 in Manufacturer Rebates with the purchase or lease of a new 2014 [Escape (excluding 2.0L)] / 2013 [Focus (excluding BEV), Fiesta], 2014 [Focus BEV, Escape 2.0L, E-Series] / 2013 [Escape S, E-Series], 2014 [Mustang V6 Coupe, Taurus (excluding SE)] / 2013 [Edge AWD (excluding SE), F-150 Regular Cab XL 4x2 Value Leader, F-150 to F-550 Chassis Cabs], 2014 [Edge, Transit Connect (excluding Electric), F-150 Regular Cab XL 4x2 Value Leader, F-150 to F-550 Chassis Cabs] / 2013 [Taurus SE] / 2013 [Mustang V6 Coupe] / 2013 [Edge FWD (excluding SE), Explorer Base], 2014 [Mustang V6 Premium] / 2013 [F-MAX] / 2013 [Taurus (excluding SE), Escape 1.6L, Transit Connect (excluding Electric)], 2014 [Mustang GT] / 2013 [Mustang V6 Premium, Escape 2.0L, Explorer (excluding Base)] / 2013 [Mustang GT] / 2014 [F-150 Regular Cab (excluding XL 4x2)] / 2013 [Expedition], 2014 [F-150 to F-450 (excluding Chassis Cabs) - Gas Engine], 2014 [F-150 Super Cab and Super Crew] / 2013 [F-150 to F-450 (excluding Chassis Cabs) - Gas Engine], 2014 [F-150 to F-450 (excluding Chassis Cabs) - Diesel Engine] / 2013 [F-150 Regular Cab (excluding XL 4x2)] / 2013 [Focus BEV, F-150 Super Cab and Super Crew] / 2013 [F-250 to F-450 (excluding Chassis Cabs) - Diesel Engine] - all Raptor, GT500, 302SSC, and Medium Truck models excluded. * Until February 28, 2014 purchase a new 2013 Ford [F-150 Super Cab XLT 4x4 5.0L] for [$25,999/$28,499] [after Total Manufacturer Rebate of $10,000] deducted). Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after total manufacturer rebate has been deducted. Offer exclude freight and air tax [$1,750] license, fuel fill charge, insurance, dealer PDI, registration, PPSA, administration fees, any environmental charges or fees, and all applicable taxes. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. ^^ Estimated fuel consumption ratings for the 2013 [F-150 4X4 5.0L V8 6-Speed Auto]. Fuel consumption ratings based on Natural Resources Canada-approved test methods. Actual fuel consumption will vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading and driving habits. ** Offer only valid from December 1, 2013 to January 31, 2014 (the "Offer Period") to resident Canadians with an eligible Costco membership on or before November 30, 2013 who purchase or lease of a new 2013/2014 Ford (excluding Fiesta, Focus, C-Max, Raptor, GT500, Mustang Boss 302, Transit Connect EV, and Medium Truck) or Lincoln vehicle (each an "Eligible Vehicle"). Limit one (1) offer per each Eligible Vehicle purchase or lease, up to a maximum of two (2) separate Eligible Vehicle sales per Costco Membership Number. Offer is transferable to persons domiciled with an eligible Costco member. Applicable taxes calculated before CAD$1,000 offer is deducted. †† Based on R. L. Polk Canada, Inc. Total New Registration data for Full Size Pickups per Ford Segmentation as of YTD September 30, 2013. ‡ Based on year-end 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 total sales figures for light vehicles in Canada from DesRosiers Automotive Consultants Inc. (and Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers' Association data exchanged by OEMs). ©2014 Sirius Canada Inc. "SiriusXM", the SiriusXM logo, channel names and logos are trademarks of SiriusXM Radio Inc. and are used under license. ® Registered trademark of Price Costco International, Inc. used under license. ©2014 Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited. All rights reserved.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You may not agree with what you hear today but let others have their say. Free speech is worth fighting for. If someone shouts down opposing opinions, make it your business to defend their right to be different.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
If there is something you have been trying to do but every time you get started you are forced to stop, it could be a sign that you should be doing something else.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Certain people may be feeling down but they have no right to bring you down with them, so go where there is music playing and people dancing and not a sad face to be seen.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Someone older and wiser will give you advice today, and if you are smart, you will listen and learn. Don't forget there are more important things in life than material success, like doing the right thing.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Someone's negative attitudes are getting you down more than you care to admit. If you have been thinking of bringing a partnership to an end, now is the time to be decisive. Don't feel sorry for them.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You'll get more done over the next 24 hours than you got done in the past 24 days. But don't think that means you have to work harder. Achieve more by doing less.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
First appearances can be deceptive, so don't be put off if someone you meet seems too serious for your tastes. The planets suggest you will be working together. Do what you can to put them at ease.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You may be reserved but every now and again you go right the other way and say things that shock. This is one of those days. You've had enough of criticisms. It's time to hit back.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Let others know what they are doing is wrong and what they must do to put it right. Don't allow yourself to worry that you might bruise their egos. Honesty is the best policy .

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You are trying hard to deny your feelings for someone because you fear it might damage your reputation. Maybe it will, but is that really a good enough excuse to turn your back on affection?

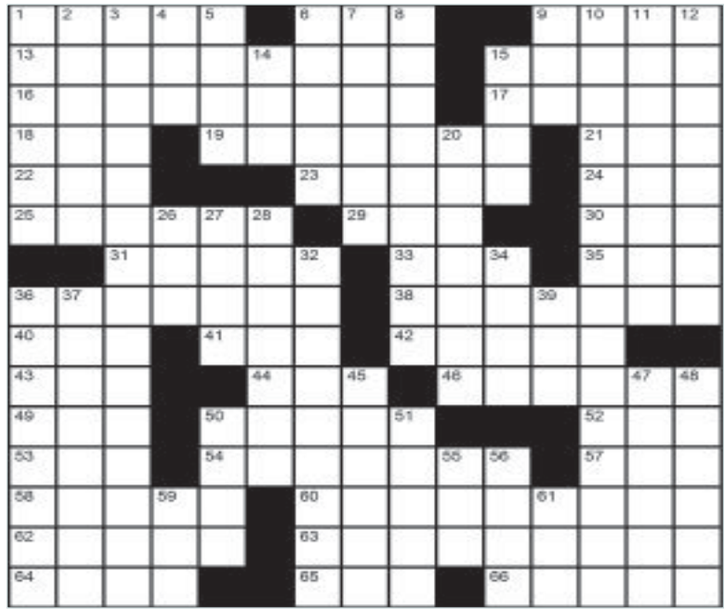
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Although this is your time of year what happens today may take the gloss off things a bit. In a way that's good because you need days like this to remind you that all those other days must not be taken for granted.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Don't worry if the party spirit seems to have passed you by because it is the inner spirit that matters. The planets indicate the deeper you think about your life's meaning, the more you will enjoy it. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

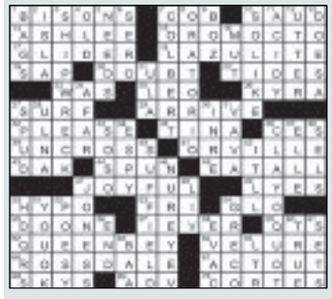
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. "___ always the case..."
6. Pouch
9. Rhyme scheme
13. Canadian basketball star: 2 wds.
15. Elongated circles
16. Toronto restaurant, The Old __ Factory
17. Ms. Croft's of video games
18. At the age of, in Latin [abbr.]
19. The first Mrs. de Winter's memory haunts in this 1940 Hitchcock thriller
21. Pre-A.D. time
22. Q. "Is __ '_' that goes after 'G'?" A. "Yes."
23. Comedy's Mr. Smirnoff
24. Escaped
25. Jane of "Hot in Cleveland"
29. #13-Across' team, on scoreboards
30. Mr. Carney
31. Tear paper: 2 wds.
33. Greyish-brown
35. Canonized Mlle.
36. "The Towering __" (1974)
38. Gave off
40. Beatles: Chairman in "Revolution"
41. Hockey's Bobby
42. Record
43. Stray
44. "The Simpsons" storekeeper
46. Toronto college; or, Roman statesman
49. Expert
50. Film critic Jeffrey
52. Lithium-__ battery
53. Ms. Kidman, to pals
54. "Are things all set?": 4 wds.
57. Soak, in dialect
58. Sovereign sorts
60. Purple __, Nunavut's official flower
62. Matter
63. "So __" by Whitney Houston
64. Hull 'head'
65. Red Chamber fig.
66. ___ harm (Hurtnot)

Down
1. Bombard
2. __. __ (Florida resort city, commonly)
3. Environment Canada daily info: 2 wds.
4. Dow Jones Ind. __.
5. "__ gut!" (Very good, in German)
6. Didn't help: 2 wds.
7. "It's _ __!" (Seller's pitch)
8. NB's provincial bird, Black-capped __
9. Flame of Frank's
10. Celebrity who dated Pierre Trudeau: 2 wds.
11. Menu option: 3 wds.
12. Gave the green light
14. Born, in Boucherville
15. King of Norway [var. sp.]
20. Newspaper features
26. Try
27. Tune on Beck's 2005 album 'Guero'
28. From-the-sky beams
32. Cute cetaceans
34. Fun evening?
36. "My opinion was no joke.": 3 wds.
37. Manitoba: __ Snake Dens
39. "The __ Commandments" (1956)
45. Wild
47. Jackie who was the 'kid' in Charlie Chaplin movie "The Kid" (1921)
48. Mr. Mosca, honoured member of the Canadian Football Hall of Fame
50. Ms. Watier
51. Anglo-__
55. "Vamoose!"
56. Comic strip, Wizard __ __
59. Regret
61. King: French

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	2		6		4		7	
			3		8			
7		6				1		3
		1	4		9	7		
6								5
		7	8		5	3		
2		8				9		7
			2		7			
	7		5		6		4	

Yesterday's Sudoku

3	7	2	6	4	1	8	5	9
1	4	8	9	5	3	7	6	2
5	9	6	2	8	7	3	1	4
9	8	1	3	7	6	4	2	5
2	5	4	1	9	8	6	3	7
6	3	7	5	2	4	1	9	8
8	2	3	4	1	5	9	7	6
7	1	5	8	6	9	2	4	3
4	6	9	7	3	2	5	8	1

Today
-20°/-29°
Sunny
Thursday
-5°/-6°
Mainly sunny
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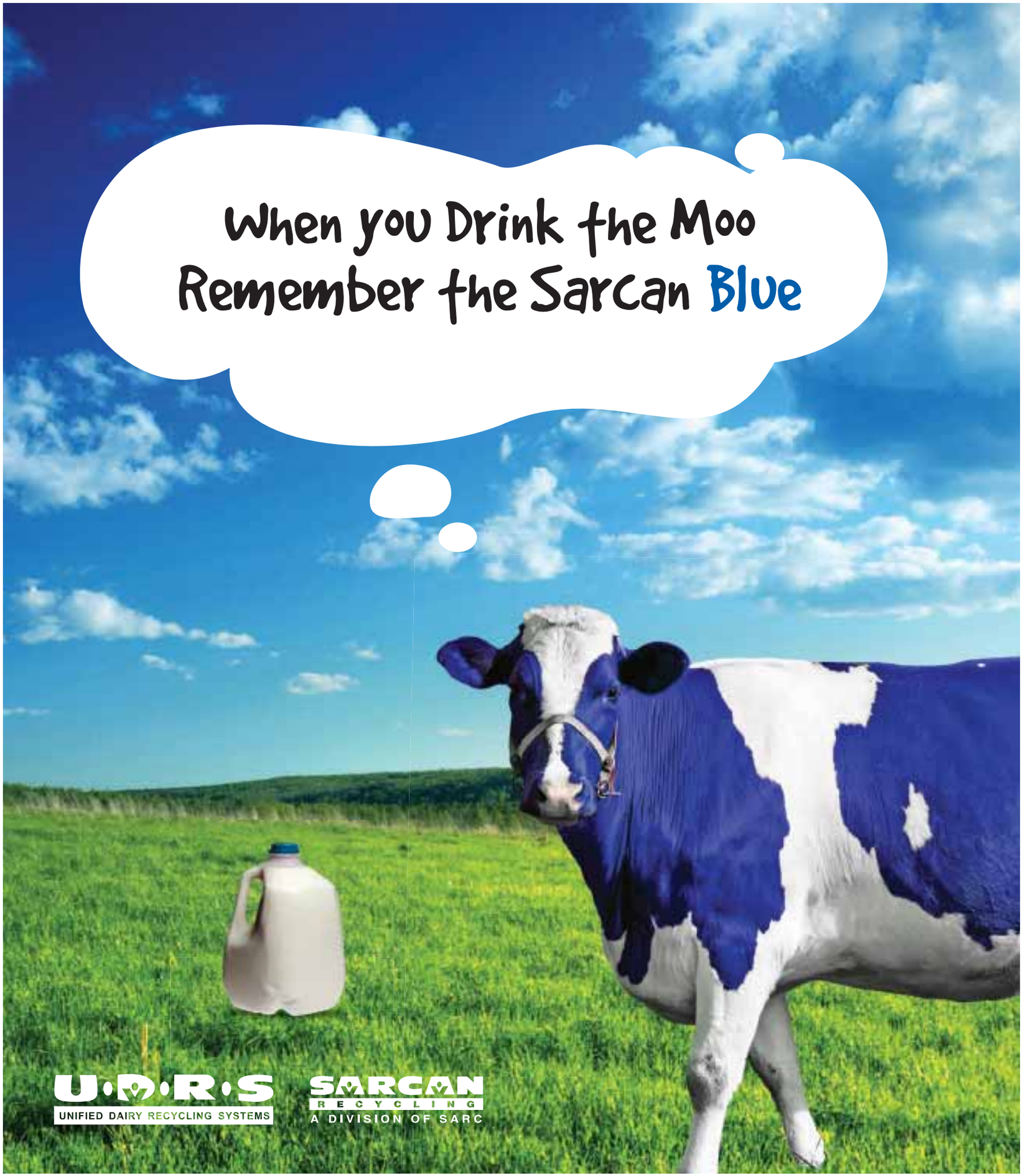
When you Drink the Moo
Remember the Sarcan Blue
U·M·R·S
UNIFIED DAIRY RECYCLING SYSTEMS
SARCAN
RECYCLING
A DIVISION OF SARC